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ADVANTAGE PARTNERS IP, LLC  
P.O. BOX 910377  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92121-0377

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**MAR 12 2004**

In re Application of  
Alan Backus et al  
Application No. 09/824,429  
Filed: April 2, 2001  
Attorney Docket No. 42205/GSL/A641

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**  
ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37CFR 1.137(b), filed March 5, 2004, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is GRANTED.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 in a timely manner to the final Office action mailed October 23, 2002, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. One month extension of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) was obtained. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on February 24, 2003.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

The person signing the instant petition also requests a change of correspondence address to the address given in the instant petition. However, it is not apparent whether the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute the above-identified application. If the person signing the instant petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney or authorization of agent must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the instant petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary.

The above-identified application is being revived solely for purposed of continuity with a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) filed on March 5, 2004.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to Irvin Dingle at (703) 306-5684.

The application file is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 1761 for further processing.



Irvin Dingle  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
for Patent Examination Policy

cc:

William J. Kolegraff  
3119 Turnberry Way  
Jamul, CA 91935